



Minutes of the Spalding Town Board Meeting held on Monday 9 February at 5pm at Spalding College Campus & Teams

Present: Robin Hancox (Chair), Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Councillor Nick Worth, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - Lincs CVS, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Petronella Keeling & Dustin Frazier Wood - Spalding Gentlemen's Club, David Ball - Bridge Farm and Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Cllr Gary Taylor and Simon Wright - LCC

Observers: Simon Stone - Springfields and Alexis Bradshaw - Spalding High School

Officer Team: Maria Cotton, Michelle Gant, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, John Mullen, Luisa Stanney and Gregory Watkinson

1 Chair's Welcome

RH opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of 2026. He reflected on the successful submission of the Spalding Pride in Place plan and thanked members for their contributions.

RH informed members that updated guidance had recently been issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), requiring all Pride in Place Boards nationally to review and adjust their membership. He explained that the new guidance set out a stronger expectation for increased resident representation, with at least half of each Board to be made up of local people, alongside the continued involvement of local partners, businesses and community organisations. This meant that the Spalding Town Board would need to expand and refresh its membership to ensure compliance with the strengthened governance requirements and to reflect a wider cross-section of the local community.

He noted that, in response to this guidance, a number of expressions of interest had been invited and received from individuals within the community. As part of this process, he welcomed Simon Stone from Springfields who was attending the meeting in an observer capacity, to allow the

Board to understand his interest and potential contribution. Formal ratification processes would follow in due course.

RH also emphasised the importance of involving younger residents in shaping the 10-year programme and welcomed Alexis Bradshaw, newly elected Student Council Chair, who would be observing the meeting to begin building youth engagement in the work of the Board.

RH additionally recorded the Board's thanks to Claire Foster for her contribution over the past two years, noting her decision to step back from the Spalding Board to focus on her responsibilities as Chair of the Boston Town Board, having resigned as Principal and Chief Executive of Boston College. Lynette Leith, new Principal and CE of Boston College, would be approached with a view to joining the Board.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Marc Jones, Pranali Parikh, Sir John Hayes, MP, Sarah Fletcher, Jo Davison and Claire Foster.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2025 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record without amendment.

5 Board Membership

The Chair reiterated the welcome to prospective new members and noted forthcoming changes required by Government guidance to increase community representation.

6 Pride in Place - Programme Management

JB introduced proposals for establishing two shared programme roles across Spalding and Boston: a Programme Manager and Programme Coordinator. Draft job descriptions and financial modelling had been circulated. The roles would be employed by the Council but work substantively for the Town Boards.

The Board discussed capacity requirements, the importance of community visibility and ensuring flexibility to attract strong candidates. The structure was agreed as an appropriate starting point, subject to review.

The Board approved creation of the two posts and agreed that the Chair, with up to three others, would participate in recruitment. It was agreed that BD would also assist with recruitment.

7 Heritage Consultation - Presentation

Greg Watkinson presented an update on the Spalding Heritage Strategy, Conservation Area Appraisal, Shopfront Design Guide and wider Partnership Design Guide. Consultation had closed on 1 February following engagement with the public and property owners.

He outlined the proposed amendments to the Conservation Area boundary and confirmed that any changes required formal Council approval. The Board discussed alignment with Pride in Place priorities and Greg agreed to provide the Board with further updates.

8 Communications Update

MG reported strong media and social media engagement, increased newsletter subscriptions and positive response to recent briefings. MG confirmed the launch of the new Pride in Place brand and planned a post meeting public update. Members requested an analysis of positive and negative comments received on social media, which MG agreed to explore.

9 Pride in Place - Project Assessment & Next Steps

MD presented an update on the assessment of the Expressions of Interest received. He noted that a full suite of supporting documents had been circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting, including the Project Assessment Update, Project Scoring Summary, Business Case Template, Enhanced Business Justification Form, Reduced Business Justification Form and the Purpose of Proportionality Assessment. These papers outlined the methodology used to assess each proposal and the requirements for the next stage of development.

MD confirmed that all projects had been independently scored against agreed criteria, with moderation applied where required. A threshold score of 21 had been used to determine which projects were suitable to progress. He emphasised that meeting the threshold did not constitute approval for funding but indicated that a project was sufficiently strong to justify further development work.

MD outlined the proposed proportionality framework, explaining that projects would move forward through one of three routes: a Reduced Business Justification, an Enhanced Business Justification or a Full Business Case. The appropriate route for each project would depend on its complexity, scale and risk. The Board recognised the importance of making the process accessible for voluntary and community organisations and MD confirmed that guidance sessions and officer support would be available to help applicants understand and complete the required documentation.

He advised that several community development proposals with similar aims would be supported to explore producing a combined business case to strengthen overall impact and avoid duplication. BD to assist with this. MD also confirmed that programme-led projects arising from the Investment Plan were being developed in parallel and would be subject to the same

assurance requirements as EOI-led projects, ensuring consistency when proposals were presented together in April.

The Board acknowledged the high volume of funding requested compared with the resources available and stressed the importance of clear deliverability and strong justification in all future submissions. Following discussion, the Board approved the proportionality framework, the associated templates and the recommended assurance routes and authorised officers to proceed with the next stage of business case development.

10 Any Other Business

Town & Culture Competition

MC briefed the Board on the new national competition and proposed submitting an expression of interest in the medium sized towns category [REDACTED]

Hot Spot Policing - RH reported that an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner was expected shortly and would be circulated for Board consideration regarding further funding.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 16 March 2026, at 5pm, venue to be confirmed. RH closed the meeting and thanked all attendees for their continued support.